

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06114 251750Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05 H-02
SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 /074 W
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R 251706Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3375
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 6114

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN
USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO
PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC INFO SEC-
STATE 25 AUG 77 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1-PANAMA CITY.--LEAD STORY ON ALL FRONT PAGES AUGUST 25,
"TORRIJOS, CARTER TO SIGN TREATY IN WASHINGTON SEPT. 7."
OTHER FRONT PAGE TREATY STORIES: "PC TREATY MAY NOT COME UP
IN SENATE UNTIL NEXT YEAR," "CANAL ISSUE AFFECTS TIES WITH
THIRD WORLD--BUNKER," AND "CARTER AFFIRMS: TREATY OPPOSITION
CAUSED BY WRONG INTERPRETATIONS."

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 06114 251750Z

2-ACCORDING TO CH. 2 EVENING NEWS AUGUST 24, PRESIDENT
CARTER PHONED GENERAL TORRIJOS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AT HIS
BEACH HOUSE IN FARALLON. DURING 24 MINUTE CONVERSATION
PRESIDENT INVITED TORRIJOS TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR
SEPTEMBER 7 TREATY SIGNING TO BE HELD AT OAS. TIME
HAS NOT BEEN FIXED YET, ACCORDING TO CHANNEL 2 REPORT,

HOWEVER CEREMONY WILL BE TRANSMITTED LIVE BY SATELLITE ON RADIO AND TV TO CANADA AND LATAM. CARTER AND TORRIJOS AGREED TO SEND JOINT INVITATIONS TO "SOME LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS." CARTER ALSO ASKED TORRIJOS TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON TWO DAYS BEFORE SEPT. 7 SIGNING "FOR PURPOSE OF CARRYING ON CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM ON TOPICS RELATED TO THE TREATY, OF BILATERAL INTEREST AND ALSO HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS." THE LATAM LEADERS WHO VISIT WASHINGTON WILL REMAIN TWO DAYS AFTER 7TH FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. GENERAL TORRIJOS WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON UNTIL SEPT. 9 FOR TALKS WITH "HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS." ACCORDING TO CHANNEL 2, "DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT CARTER TOLD GENERAL TORRIJOS THAT HE FORESAW A NEW KIND OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND PANAMA WITH ADVENT OF NEW TREATY."

3-GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO OF AUGUST 25 RAN LEAD EDIT, "BEFORE THE GREAT OBLIGATION," ON UPCOMING TREATY PLEBISCITE. THRUST OF EDIT WAS TO URGE REGISTRATION OF THE 83,728 VOTERS WITHOUT IDENTITY CARDS BEFORE PLEBISCITE, HOWEVER IN PASSING CHARACTERIZED PLEBISCITE THUSLY: "WE ARE GOING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN PROCESS OF LIBERATION OFFERED BY TREATY THIS YEAR AND MAINTENANCE OF A STATIC SITUATION BEGUN AND MAINTAINED SINCE 1903 WITH CLEAR INTENTION OF PERPETUATING ITSELF."

4-GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CRITICA DEDICATED LEAD EDIT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 06114 251750Z

AUGUST 23 CANAL ZONE BORDER INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED WHEN CZ POLICE ARRESTED A PANAMANIAN FOR DRUKN DRIVING, AN UNRULY CROWD GATHERED AND NATIONAL GUARD ON THE SCENE THREATENED TO INTERVENE ON THE SIDE OF THE CROWD. ACCORDING TO EDIT, ENTITLED "SAVAGERY OF INTIMIDATION," THE "ZONIANS WANT ANOTHER 9TH OF JANUARY. THAT IS HOW THEY WANT TO TORPEDO THE NEW TREATY... LET THEM CONTINUE PROVOKING IF THEY MUST. HERE A SUPREME EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO CONTAIN THE INDIGNATION THAT BURSTS IN EVERY BREAST." ONLY OTHER MENTION OF INCIDENT IS PAGE ONE REEFER BOX TO PAGE 18 STORY, "EL CHORRILLO CAN EXPLODE." INDIGNANT COMMUNIQUE FROM EL CHORRILLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL IS CARRIED ON P. 18, BACK PAGE OF MATUTINO AND ON INSIDE PAGE, WITH PHOTOS, OF PRO-GOP AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA.

5-CRITICA OF AUGUST 25 ALSO CARRIED SINGULAR COLUMN BY VICTOR M. FRANCESCHI IN THE REGULAR "PISANDO CALLOS" (STEPPING ON CORNS) SPACE. FRANCESCHI SAYS THAT TORRIJOS SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH PANAMA, THAT "TORRIJOS IS THE HISTORIC INSTRUMENT OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE AND NOT THE INVERSE." FRANCESCHI CONCLUDES: "PLEASE; PLANT YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND AND STOP THE FOOLISHNESS OF CONFUSING TORRIJOS WITH THE STRUGGLE AND HOPES OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE."

6-CRITICA COLUMNIST CAMILO PEREZ COUNSELS CAUTION ON TREATY.
AND ASKS WHY PRES. CARTER IS IN SUCH A HURRY TO SIGN IT:
"WE ARE VERY, VERY WORRIED...WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT TIME
WAS IN OUR FAVOR...PERHAPS PRES. CARTER'S RUSH IS SOLELY FOR
STRATEGIC REASONS. BUT AT SAME TIME, IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE
POSSIBILITY FOR VARIATIONS TO ARISE IN PANAMANIAN POSITION, SINCE
BACKROOM VIEW IS THAT AGREEMENT OF PRINCIPLES IS VERY
FAVORABLE TO U.S. INTERESTS. FOR OUR PART, WE MUST BE
CONVINCED THAT ALL ASPECTS ARE IN PANAM'S FAVOR...LET'S BE
CAREFUL. LET'S READ TEXT WITH GREAT CARE. LET'S READ
TRANSLATION IN SAME WAY. LET'S QUESTION THAT WHICH SEEMS TO
US VAGUE, IMPRECISE OR AMBIGUOUS." ITEM UNQUOTE
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PAGE 04 PANAMA 06114 251750Z

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770308-0627
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ISecure: 1
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